## **COVID-19 Online Waiver Request Submission**

Pursuant to section 2202(a) of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (the Act) (P.L. 116-127), and in light of the exceptional circumstances surrounding COVID-19, USDA FNS has established additional nationwide waivers published in April, available to schools/sponsoring organizations that elect to use them. National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) Sponsoring organizations will need to make additional waiver determinations via the online Child Nutrition Program Website, located at <a href="http://cnp.doe.louisiana.gov">http://cnp.doe.louisiana.gov</a>. Note that log-in is required to complete this process.

<u>Meal Pattern Waiver:</u> Ability to waive specific meal pattern requirements, as needed, to support access to nutritious meals when certain foods are not available during this emergency. This waiver applies to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP/SSO), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). <u>Extension provided</u>.

<u>Non-congregate Feeding Waiver:</u> Ability to serve meals outside of the standard group setting to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19. <u>Meal Delivery flexibility</u> falls under this waiver. This waiver applies to the NSLP/SSO, SBP, CACFP, SFSP.

<u>Meal Times Waiver:</u> USDA FNS has provided a nationwide waiver to support access to nutritious meals outside of the designated meal periods to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19. This waiver applies to the NSLP/SSO, SBP, CACFP, SFSP.

<u>Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup Waiver:</u> This waiver allows parents/guardians to pick up meals for their children without the child being present. A documented process for linking parent/guardian to a student must be in place to maintain program integrity. This waiver applies to the NSLP/SSO, SBP, CACFP, SFSP.

Activity Requirement in Afterschool Care Waiver: The requirement for an educational or enrichment activity when serving an afternoon snack/meal under the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) or Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) has been waived. This applies to afterschool snack in NSLP and for At Risk Supper in CACFP Monitoring Requirements for SFSP: USDA FNS has issued flexibility to waive certain onsite monitoring requirements for SFSP.

<u>Monitoring Requirements for CACFP:</u> USDA FNS has issued flexibility to waive certain onsite monitoring requirements for CACFP.

<u>FSMC Contract Duration:</u> Nationwide waiver allows flexibility for FSMC contracts that may expire by or around June 30, 2020, may be ext0ended through SY 2020-2021 (June 30, 2021). This waiver applies to the NSLP/SSO, SBP, SFSP.

<u>Local Wellness Policy Triennial Assessment:</u> Nationwide waiver to support schools unable to complete a triennial assessment of the local wellness policies by June 30, 2020. This waiver applies to the NSLP and SBP.

<u>Area Eligibility for Closed Enrolled Sites Waiver:</u> This waiver allows closed enrolled sites to be determined eligible through area eligibility (through applying free and reduced (F/R) eligibility or Community Eligibility Program (CEP) data to establish free meals). This waiver applies to the NSLP/SSO and SFSP.

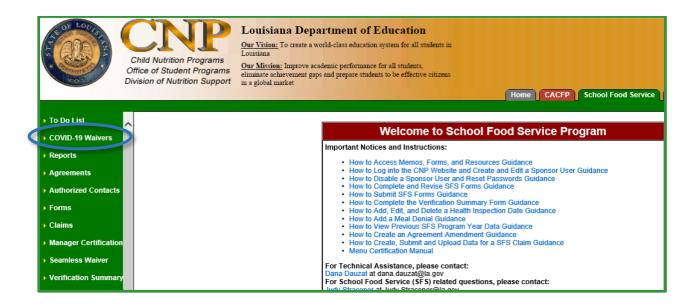
<u>First Week Site Visits in SFSP Waiver:</u> FNS waives the need for sponsors to make a site visit during the first week of operation if the site has operated successfully in the previous year. This waiver applies to the SFSP program.

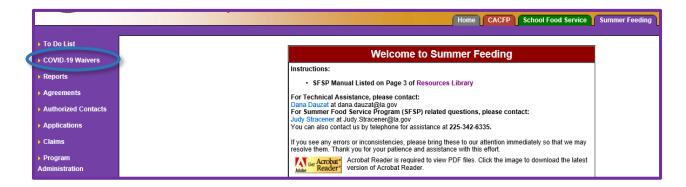
<u>Offer Versus Serve (OVS) Flexibility in SFSP:</u> During the current pandemic, sponsors are allowed to follow the SFSP Offer Versus Serve Option with the SFSP Meal Pattern.

<u>Meal Time Restrictions Waiver:</u> USDA FNS has provided a nationwide waiver to support access to nutritious meals outside of the designated meal periods to minimize potential exposure to COVID-19. This waiver begins July 1, 2020, and remains in effect through 9/30/2020. This waiver applies to the NSLP/SSO and SFSP.

Seamless Summer Option (SSO) and Summer Food Service Program waivers can be submitted through the Child Nutrition Program website (<a href="http://cnp.doe.louisiana.gov">http://cnp.doe.louisiana.gov</a>) under the designated program tab. Log-in access is required in order to access the COVID-19 waiver feature.

1. Click **COVID-19 Waivers** on the program list to access the available waivers.





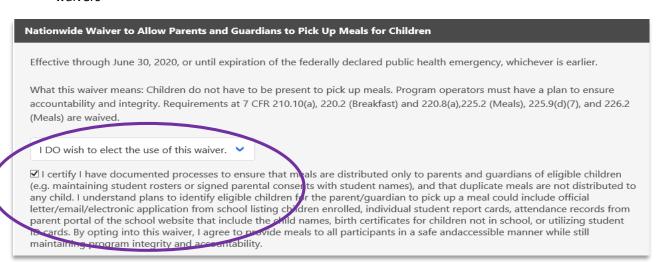
- 2. Accessing the COVID-19 Waivers
  - a. Initial waiver submission: If this is the first time a waiver is being submitted click the **Start a COVID 19 Waiver.**



b. Previously submitted & approved waivers: If a waiver was previously submitted and approval via the electronic Waiver Request Form, click **Open the COVID 19 Waiver**.



3. Elect or Decline: Once the waiver screen is open the user should read each waiver carefully and either <u>Elect</u> OR <u>Decline</u> the use of each waiver from the dropdown list provided. The Meal Pattern Flexibility Waiver and the Parent/Guardian Meal Pickup Waiver require an additional selection if utilized. The user should read and check "I certify" if electing to use either of these waivers



- 4. Save and Submit: Once all waivers have been elected or declined the user will <u>Save</u> and <u>Submit</u> the COVID-19 waiver request. An error message will appear if all waivers are not addressed and certified where needed. The user will need to address all errors indicated to enable the save and submission button. The COVID-19 Waivers homepage will provide the submission date.
- 5. Revision of Waivers: If a revision or addition needs to be made the waiver request tab please email Brittany O'Bryan, <a href="mailto:Brittany.Obryan@la.gov">Brittany.Obryan@la.gov</a> to have the waiver released back for edits.